

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

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DATE: August 10, 1953

TO : CIA/OIC - Cluade Hawley

FROM : OIR/PIRS - R. H. Young *my*

SUBJECT: State Reactions to Research Project on Soviet Linguistics

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Replies from three areas within the Department to the subject research proposal indicate reactions ranging from mild interest to reluctance in having this project performed,,at least as presently conceived.

I believe you are aware of a much more favorable reaction from the Psychological Strategy Board toward seeing something like this project completed. The following represent summaries of opinion descriptions from the Department:

Office of Eastern European Affairs:

While the project may be worthwhile, the results would be of marginal importance in solving the problems faced by the desk in the Soviet sphere.

Division of Research for Eastern Europe/Soviet Internal Branch:

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Coordinator for Psychological Intelligence/DRS Branch

There is interest in having a study such as this performed, but doubt is expressed that a year's time is a sufficient period in which to complete it. More important, however, is the opinion that this project should be tailored more specifically to a given operational or research problem of the government. For example, in our VOA broadcasts to the Soviet Union we are not certain of knowing what real effect the communication impacts because of our ignorance of contemporary Russian word meanings. Such a study as here proposed might also incorporate a critical analysis of our broadcasting in the light of its findings. Specific end uses to which a study of Soviet linguistics could be put should be charted

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before an investment be made. This branch would be glad to offer suggestions in fulfillment of its recommendation.

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